

[3 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) the reaction of Government thereto^ and

(d) whether Pakistan have asked India to include separatists also in peace dialogue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Issue of Jammu and Kashmir is being bilaterally discussed with Pakistan within the framework of the Composite Dialogue. The Foreign Secretaries of both countries have completed four rounds of talks on Peace and Security including Confidence Building Measures and Jammu and Kashmir. The first round of talks was held in June, 2004 and the fourth round in March, 2007 in Islamabad.

Train service from Delhi to Lahore

3082. KUMARI NIRMALAT ESPANDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to have a direct train from Delhi to Lahore, as there is a direct Bus Service;

(b) what are the problems in having a direct train service; and

(c) the steps being taken to solve them?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to have* direct train service from Delhi to Lahore as there is a link train currently from Delhi to Attari Which Connects with the Samjhauta Express to Lahore.

Delhi-Tashkent railway

3083. KUMARI NIRMALA DESPANDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with his Ministry for Delhi-Tashkent railway; and

(b) if so, what progress has been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AHAMMED): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.